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22-0160
4 11 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller
SUBJECT : The Clandestine Service Historical Program

1. During the months ahead the ability of the Clandestine Service to staff a historical program of any significant size will be greatly reduced. During the rest of FY 1972 we will attempt to finish those historical papers on which a significant amount of work has been done. This would comprise about 40 or 50 papers in addition to the 170 already published in the Clandestine Service Historical Paper (CSHP) series. Beyond that, we recommend that the historical program continue along the following lines:

a. There should be a continuing effort to identify and preserve documents which would be of value to future historical writers.

b. We would continue to debrief key personnel returning from the field and those retiring from the Agency and invite them to prepare written accounts of their experiences.

c. From the many subjects involving the Clandestine Service which should be made matters of historical record the Clandestine Service Historical Board would designate a limited number--about 10--which should receive priority attention. These would consist of monographs on operational programs and CS involvement in certain crisis areas, as well as histories of major stations and major Headquarters components.

d. The divisions and staffs should be encouraged to prepare any type of historical studies they may find useful, including

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organizational and station histories. The CS Historical Board should decide whether these or any other papers should be published in the CSHP series or retained as source documents. This would require revision or re-interpretation of HR 1-2c(3).

e. About 10 clearly qualified annuitants should be re-hired as independent contractors to form a cadre of historical writers. They should be assigned to work within the various CS components with the CS Historical Board and the CIA Historical Staff providing guidance and general research assistance. This group should be augmented by qualified staff personnel whenever available.

f. The CS Historical Board should pass judgment on the capability of personnel before they are assigned to prepare papers in the CSHP series.

g. Scheduling and target dates should take into account the availability of writers and the dimensions and complexity of the historical projects to which they are assigned. The program should be open ended. It need not be completed this year or the next but as rapidly as capable, diligent writers can progress and still produce sound, readable papers.

h. The historical program should be flexible and subject to continuing revision by the Historical Board and by appropriate management personnel in the CS and the Agency.

2. May we have your approval of the guidelines listed above, or a discussion of those with which you may differ? Any additional instructions or guidance would be most useful in our planning for the future.

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